



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4677/1  
SWB&TJD:wlj

## 2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 109

February 11, 2016 – Introduced by Representatives VOS, VORPAGEL, BRANDTJEN, R. BROOKS, TITTL, LOUDENBECK, CZAJA, KNODL, ROHRKASTE, BERCEAU, KRUG, KREMER, GANNON, DUCHOW, RODRIGUEZ and BALLWEG, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, HARSDFORF, LASSA and GUDEX. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** requesting the department of health services and the department of  
2             children and families to seek waiver approval to create a sliding scale for  
3             eligibility for public benefit programs.

4             Whereas, programs administered by the department of health services or the  
5             department of children and families under which the department of health services  
6             or the department of children and families provides services, benefits, or other  
7             assistance to individuals or families have eligibility parameters that may currently  
8             create a disincentive for participants to accept certain wage increases or job  
9             promotions due to the potential loss of benefits without sufficient income to replace  
10            these benefits; and

11            Whereas, there exists under the current structure of public benefits a “fiscal  
12            cliff” in which, for example, an employee might turn down a job promotion with a  
13            small hourly pay increase because the small pay increase might cause the employee’s  
14            income to be outside the income eligibility thresholds such that the employee could

lose all childcare subsidies or other public benefits at once and, as a result, be economically worse off; and

Whereas, the department of health services and the department of children and families have limited flexibility under current program structures to alleviate or mitigate the effects of this fiscal cliff; and

Whereas, the federal government could approve waiver requests from the department of health services and the department of children and families authorizing these agencies to create a sliding scale that mitigates the effects of the existing fiscal cliff by taking into account a person's income and other factors regarding a person's eligibility for public benefit programs and establishing appropriate levels of contributions and benefits for participants based on those factors; now, therefore, be it

***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the Wisconsin legislature request the department of health services and the department of children and families to seek waiver approval from the federal government to create a sliding scale that mitigates the effects of the existing fiscal cliff by taking into account a person's income and other factors regarding a person's eligibility for public benefit programs and establishing appropriate levels of contributions and benefits for participants based on those factors; and, be it further

***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to the secretary of health services and the secretary of children and families.

**(END)**